



THE ARK

Toledo Diocesan Cursillo Mission Statement: Cursillo is a Catholic Lay Movement embraced by the Diocese of Toledo to bring hearts closer to Jesus Christ in order to transform society and be of service to the whole church. It is our mission to form small Christian Communities to deepen Spirituality in ourselves and in others.

January 2025

Application Forms are on the Website:

www.cursillo419.org

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Spiritual Advisor

A "Return to Ordinary Time" A Time to Relax, to Recoup?

'Ahh' January, a time for focusing of re-entering the regular rhythm of life after the Christmas season, emphasizing the importance of continuing to listen to God's voice and actively live out your faith in everyday actions, even when the festive atmosphere has subsided, drawing parallels to the Gospel readings which often highlight the call to discipleship and living a life dedicated to God's will. It is a funny, joyful feeling these days. We enter into our Church that is still lively, but strangely different. The crib is back in storage, the wise men have

returned to the east, the shepherds to their flocks, the angels have stopped singing, and the star has disappeared. Christmas is a memory. We are now in what the church ironically calls ordinary time, back to the old routine. We can cast a long, longing look ahead to Easter, to spring break, to Valentine's Day, or even to thank God it's Friday, but that all makes Christmas sound like an end. And it is not an end, but a beginning. Christmas was a high point, but not the highest. Christmas changed our world, but only if you let it be changed. No Christian can live on Christmas alone. Jesus is no longer an infant, He did not stay in Bethlehem and make the crib His condo for life. He moved out, and spent 30 years where you and I would never dream of looking for Him in a small town

about which His disciples would ask, can any good come out of Nazareth?

He gave no more than three years publicly to the people He had been born to save. Even then, He began His ministry not with angels, thunder or power. He began by turning water into wine. (JOHN 2: 1-11) A small miracle, one that was a sign of His transforming power, it was a whisper of things to come. In the future, He would turn frowns into smiles,

Spring 2025
Weekends

Men's - March 6-9

Women's April 10 - 13

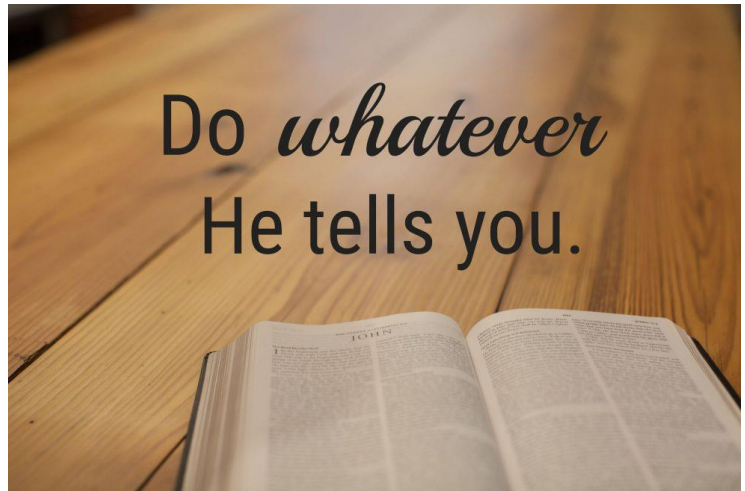
despair into hope, fear into faith, and sinners into saints. The sick would be made well, and the dead would rise. In John's Gospel, the Blessed Mother turns to her son, Jesus and says, "They have no wine." I wonder, could she also be speaking of us? Perhaps the wine has run out in the wedding of your life. The sense of satisfaction or celebration has, perhaps, run out of your marriage, your job, your career, your friendships, and maybe, your faith. It happens. At times we all feel the wine is running out.

We see and hear it all the time. "My marriage seems like so much work: cleaning the house, taking care of the kids, fixing the leaking roof, having the car serviced. My job is at a dead end: my career is on hold." And so it goes. We hear it in the voices of people whose wine has run out: "Why should I vote? It really does not matter who wins." Or, "I am too old to bother." So at times we all feel like the wine has run out. The Blessed Mother would have been right to point at us.

But then Jesus enters with the power to transform. He comes with the message that even though we may have had a disaster and feel hurt and betrayed, growth and fulfillment can rise from that. Did you notice that Jesus asked for help in working this miracle? He says, tell the servants to draw water and pour it into these jugs. If they did not do that then there would be no miracle, no transformation. The message is not only that Jesus can transform the loss, the boredom, the pain that some of us feel, not only can He restore the hope that we once knew and the love that has gone out of our lives, not only can Jesus do that, but He often asks us to help with the miracle. He says, "Okay servants, will you help?" And if they did not help, He is powerless in the sense that without their help He did not have the water in front of Him to transform.

And so He asks us, "Help Me, bring Me the water so I can make all things new again." And most of all, to reach out to those around us whose wine has run out of their lives. Do we remember in our prayers those whose cups are empty? Whose wine has run out? Do we ever invite someone to worship with us, to come and listen to God's word?

John's Gospel is more than about a wedding; this Gospel is about emptiness. And people are dying of emptiness, more spiritual than physical. So when people come to you and say they have no more wine there is something you can do to fill that void. You can assist the Lord, you can pray, you can invite, you bear witness to what God has done for you in your life. (Make a Friend - Be a Friend - Bring a Friend to Jesus) So when we share in the breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup because we are the people of God. As we do this, think of all the people for whom that piece of bread, the Eucharist, would be so nourishing to their spirits, and remember these words of Mary, her last words in the New Testament: "Do whatever He tells you."



Peace and Love,
Deacon Jerry Gubernath



Lay Director

Joy to our world!! The Lord has come!!

And not just one day do we celebrate the birth of Our Lord, Savior and King: Baby Jesus!! We celebrate a season of Christmas. The 12 days of Christmas!! So don't put your decorations away yet! It is time to party, to celebrate Jesus' birth and not only that, but also, His second coming. When? Only God the Father knows. So, let's not sleep. Put on your best and get to church and really celebrate that Jesus has come for YOU!! Yes, you...and you....and you....and me too. After all, we all know in our hearts that Christmas isn't about the gifts under the tree but the gifts that we give from our hearts. All the glitter and lights may make things look wonderful and bright. Yet the tugging in our hearts guides us to the real reason of the season – JESUS. And He calls us to share with those around us in our own little part of the world.

Can you imagine what it would look like if all of us took off for other parts of the world, say Africa, and leave northwest Ohio? Pretty awesome in some respect. Yet there would be a huge void. Some are called to go out to other places in the world. Some are called to go out to their neighbors. All are called to spread the good news with those we meet each and every day. To be joy filled. That doesn't mean we don't have our own problems to deal with; we do! But it is pretty well known that when we are going through our own bleak periods on our journeys in life, if we look out for others, taking the focus off ourselves, the dismal and dark periods fade away. Reaching out with a smile elevates others and in turn elevates our souls. Think, when you see a baby laughing/smiling, what do you do? You can't help but smile also.

This Christmas season and on into the new year, we challenge each of you and ourselves to reach out to the marginalized, the ones that truly are having a hard time with life, to reach out and lift them up as best you can, with what you can, where you are at. And we believe that God will bless you. Pray, pray, pray! The Bible urges us to pray all the time. 1Thess 5:16-18 "pray without ceasing", Philippians 4:6 "Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything", Matt 6:7 "When you pray, don't babble like the

Gentiles”, Luke 18:1 “One day Jesus told His disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up.”, Psalm 116:2 “Because He bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I breathe.”, Ephesians 6:18 “Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request”, Psalm 86:3, “Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you constantly.”, Romans 8:26,” In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness.”

So let us all be joy filled prayer warriors for Our Lord who has come to set us free!!!

May God bless you all and fill you, overflowing with His peace, love and joy!

DeColores and Ultreya

Kathy and John

Pre-Cursillo

We have heard of many happy holiday gatherings of families and friends. Hope yours were also.

Did you have any opportunities to work on **"Make a Friend, Be a Friend and Bring a Friend to Christ"**?

Let us know how you did. The Spring weekends will be here before you know it.

Men's weekend is March 6 thru 9 and the Women's is April 10 thru 13, 2025.

Looking forward to receiving your candidate (and Sponsor's) applications.

Send to hkeel@buckeye-express.com

De Colores

Helen & Gary Keel

Pre-Cursillo

419-476-9347

Cursillo

Happy New Year. May the Peace of Christ be in your Heart. If you would like to be on a Cursillo Team please get your Applications to Robert Drewior (robertdrewior774@gmail.com) or Dave Zaborski (dzaborski411@gmail.com). Please put in Subject Line Team Application

Happy New Year

Bob Drewior & Dave Zaborski



Prayer Vine

Niece - sinus surgery, Peggy - heart surgery, Dan Soloman - passed, car accident, Larry Wissler - heart surgery, Don - cancer, Sandy - back surgery, Kathy Wissler - husband passed, Ron & Nancy - son passed, Tom McCarthy - hip surgery & heart attack, friend - fell, broke her femur & had surgery, friend - uterine cancer, Don Weinandy - passed away, niece - going thru bitter divorce.

School of Leaders

We rejoice in that we are never alone. Christ is our light through the darkness.

Some people, after the holidays are over, have a difficult time. Some feel depressed and alone through the winter months.

We can be the light in their darkness. We pray for others and reach out to those in need.

What is a small gesture, may just be the miracle that they are looking for.

Let your light shine !

We are back with School Of Leaders on January 18th 9am. inside the Marian Room
St. Michael Parish In Findlay.

Barb Stager will present and lead us in reflection of scripture.

Sr. Edna will be Present "The Introduction" as well as "The Introductory Rites" and "The Entrance" from our new Book "What Nobody Told Us" By Fr. Philip A. Smith

Tom Russell is presenting chapter 13 "What Difference Does It Make ? Continued" page 130 from "Rescued"

We look forward to seeing you there. Perhaps, bring someone who has not attended in a while. The Lord Willing, we will have the coffee on for you.

Bring a snack to share if you wish.

Annie Blum annieblum516@gmail.com

Walter Beckford wbeckford@bex.net

Fourth Day

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. I hope that your Christmas is filled with the great wonder and awe of the Christ child. We hope that all your family celebrations are filled with joy and happiness. Bill and I are so blessed with great family and friends, especially our Cursillo family. We pray that your new year will be filled with the Love of Jesus and hope for a blessed and peaceful new year. May God bless you with many gifts and much happiness this year.



The next Cursillo weekends will be at the Spiritually Center of St. Francis in Tiffin. The dates are: Men's; March 6 - 9 and Women's; April 10-13. The teams are forming and candidates are needed for both weekends. Prayers and Blessings to all. Becky Smeltz and Bill and Betty Obringer



PALANCA

Palanca in Cursillo, we use the word Palanca to designate the spiritual force represented by voluntary prayers and sacrifices which are done ...knees are the levers.

Area Ultreya's

Area 2 Ultreyas are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, 2-3 p.m. Jaeger Hall, St. Clements church,

Area 7 & 10 Tiffin Area : Tiffin area Ultreya will be Jan. 26th at 7pm in the Upper Room of St. Joseph Activity Center

Area 8 Area 8 January Ultreya will be held on January 13, 2025 at Resurrection parish hall in Lexington. We will have our Christmas potluck beginning at 6:30 P.M. The Mansfield folks will provide the meat, drink and table service. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.

Witness:

to share how God is working in your life email to – judbrick616@gmail.com

***Current openings on Secretariat***

For your information and reflection -- there are several positions on Secretariat that will be opening for replacements—

School of Leaders

The current position holders will be with you one year to familiarize you with the service position you assume/step into.



Please reflect on these openings and hear the Holy Spirit to be the Hands, Feet and Voice of Jesus, you can continue to grow in your faith!

'What a shame it would be if someone came looking for Christ and only found us! But what a blessing if they came looking for us and found Christ!!'

Eduardo Bonnin, Founder Cursillo Movement

NATIONAL CURSILLO INFORMATION: www.natl-cursillo.org Read about Cursillo news, palanca requests from around the world, or read the national newsletter.

TOLEDO CURSILLO WEBSITE: www.cursillo419.org Go here to view news of upcoming events, read the current month's Ark or download forms.